

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

January 7, 2010

Mr. Rick Foster
Chief Actuary
Office of the Actuary
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)
7500 Security Boulevard
Baltimore, MD 21244-1850

Dear Mr. Foster:

We have greatly appreciated your previous actuarial analyses of versions of the House and Senate health care overhaul legislation. Your objective review of a number of pertinent factors has added greatly to the policy debate.

Now that the Senate debate has concluded and Majority Leader Reid's manager's amendment has substantially changed the legislation, we respectfully request that the CMS Office of the Actuary complete an analysis of the Senate-passed version of H.R. 3590, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, as expeditiously as possible.

In keeping with the stated goals of health care reform, we would specifically appreciate a determination by the Office of the Actuary as to whether this legislation:

- Will bend the cost curve downward resulting in decreased national health care expenditures in the future
- Will decrease individual health insurance premiums
- Will impact Medicare and Medicaid patient access to health care providers
- Will impact individuals with employer-sponsored health insurance
- Will affect the Medicare Advantage benefits for current and future enrollees

Additionally, please feel free to provide any other actuarial data regarding the likely impacts of this legislation that is relevant to policy-makers. In particular, we would request that you provide additional information about the accounting rules that allow Medicare reductions to be used to simultaneously finance other federal outlays and extend the solvency of the Medicare Trust Fund. As you may know, the Congressional Budget Office recently called the validity of such double counting into question. Any additional perspectives you could provide regarding the impact of such policies on the federal budget and future deficits would be greatly appreciated.

We look forward to your response and the assurance that this secondary analysis will be completed in order to provide Congress and the American people with the information necessary to fully assess this proposed legislation.

Sincerely,

Mike Johnson

Rep. Blum

Joe Neukirch

Rep. Winter

Chris L. Bennett

Mike Cregoe

Boucarrh

Chris L. Hatch

Donna Smith

Tom Cohen

Kay Bailey Hutchison

Rep. Blum

Georg J. Meij

Sam Braunlakh

George V. Venovick

John Barrasso

John
Jim Clark

Susan Collins

Jan E. Rind

Michael B. Enzi

Lamar Alexander

John M. L.

Chuck Grassley

John Thune

Judd Gregg

John Cornyn

Jim DeMint